



Winners of the Paseo Monumental contest are announced

Aruba's youth discover that enthusiasm for their island's history has its rewards

On Sunday, September 10 Aruba's Monument Bureau, the organization charged with the restoration and maintenance of the island's landmark buildings celebrated its tenth anniversary. The entire town of Oranjestad was part of this celebration, as a Paseo Monumental began at 9:00 AM lasting throughout the day. All the island's historical buildings were open for viewing, and many conducted special folkloric entertainment and offered a true taste of island life. It was a delightful day for island residents and visitors alike, and to encourage the youth of Aruba to take an interest in their history, a "speurtocht," or contest, was part of the festivities for the children that offered some very nice rewards.

Any that wished to participate were given a question sheet about the twenty-four landmark buildings that were showcased on the historical walk through Oranjestad. There was a question about each location as to its function, and then a multiple-choice question either about the physical construction of the building or its history, which was to be found on each edifice in English, Papiamentu and Dutch.

Yvonne Webb-Kock, Director of the Monument Bureau announced the winners on Thursday afternoon, September 21 at their landmark building on the Plaza Henriquez, and Minister of Labor, Culture and Sport, Ramon Lee presented the children with their prizes. Ten children received a variety of rewards such as a family day at De Palm Island courtesy of De Palm Tours, gift certificates from AMC Unicon Appliances, and for the top scorers, cellular phones from SETAR N.V., Aruba's national telecommunications company.

The children being rewarded for their interest in their island's history were Zinha Flanegin and Nina Flanegin in the eight to nine year old category; Arlette Franken, Sigwald Franken, Admee Erasmus and Raphaella Webb in the ten to eleven year old age group; Jaqueline Boekhoudt, for the twelve and thirteen year group; Stacey Caton and Ashnah Cruz in the fourteen and fifteen year category and Luwshshjen Cruz, sixteen years old.

First prize winners Arlette and Stacy, with their new cell phones in hand described the experience as "awesome" and the parents also commented on the children's enthusiasm and enjoyment of the day, which proved a wonderful and educational experience for all the family.